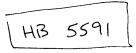
Dear Members of the Connecticut General Assembly,



Happy New Year.

Connecticut begins 2016 having finally regained all of the private sector jobs lost in the Great Recession of 2008. Although our pace of recovery lagged the nation and neighboring states, we—and the tens of thousands of families in the workforce we represent—are committed to sustaining these job gains and building upon them. In return, we ask that you refrain from making our commitment more difficult by creating new or expanding existing labor mandates.

Gov. Malloy, in signing the budget adjustments produced in last month's special legislative session, said it best when he remarked, "We no doubt have more to do in the General Assembly session ahead, but this is a positive step to improve the state's business climate and deliver long-term predictability that will allow our families and businesses to thrive."

Businesses of all sizes looking to retain or grow jobs in Connecticut, above all else, need stability and predictability to build a secure workforce. They look not only at whether or not the state's fiscal house is in order, but also at lawmakers' attitudes on imposing untried, unnecessary, inflexible, one-size-fits all labor mandates.

Like you, we are tired of the negative perception of Connecticut's business climate. We are committed to partnering with you to make Connecticut more competitive. However, the reality is that the labor mandates enacted in recent years have added to the already high cost of sustaining Connecticut jobs, and they have slowed our recovery. Companies that have chosen to exit the state have directly cited these mandates as contributing factors.

Your effort in recent months to reduce state spending was an important first step, but the journey to steadily securing Connecticut's workforce gains is a long one—and we cannot afford any steps backward. It is critical to Connecticut's businesses that the perpetual threat of new and expanded labor mandates ends now.

The next step in the journey requires more action. We urge you do the following in the 2016 session:

- HB 5591-
- Reject efforts to establish a state-sponsored retirement plan for the private sector that will directly compete with Connecticut's vital financial services industry and also force businesses to enroll employees in, or incur the payroll costs of facilitating contributions to, any such plan.
- 2. Reject creating a costly and unsustainable new paid family and medical leave program or expanding existing leave requirements.
- 3. Reject efforts to impose penalty taxes on employers who create job opportunities for unskilled and entry-level employees simply because some of those opportunities start at less than \$15 per hour.
- 4. Reject the addition or expansion of any other one-size-fits-all employee leave or scheduling mandates.
- 5. Protect the unemployment compensation trust fund for future employees by adopting the same unemployment benefit reforms that our neighboring states are successfully using.

Connecticut's economy has newfound traction. It takes courage and bold action to set a new course and stay on it. If you do your part to provide job creators with relief from current and newly proposed costly labor mandates, we can work together to expand and create more jobs and opportunities right here, where they belong.

Respectfully,

Associated General Contractors of Connecticut Associated Sheet Metal & Roofing Contractors of Connecticut Avon Chamber of Commerce Bethel Chamber of Commerce **Bridgeport Regional Business Council Builders & Remodelers Association of** Eastern Connecticut Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Connecticut Asphalt & Aggregate **Producers Association** Connecticut Association of Plumbing, **Heating & Cooling Contractors Connecticut Bankers Association** Connecticut Bioscience Growth Council Connecticut Bus Association **Connecticut Business & Industry** Association Connecticut Associated Builders & Contractors **Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies** Connecticut Child Care Association **Connecticut Coalition of Property Owners Connecticut Construction Industries** Association Connecticut Environmental & Utilities **Contractors Association** Connecticut Farm Bureau Association Connecticut Food Association Connecticut Heating & Cooling **Contractors Association** Connecticut Homemaker & Companion Association **Connecticut Lodging Association** Connecticut Messenger Courier

Association

Association

Commerce

Connecticut Ready Mixed Concrete

Connecticut Restaurant Association

Connecticut Retail Merchants Association
Connecticut River Valley Chamber of

Connecticut Road Builders Association

Connecticut School Transportation Association **Connecticut Society of Certified Public** Accountants Connecticut Tooling & Machining Association Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association Connecticut Vineyard & Winery Association **Employers Association of the NorthEast** Farmington Chamber of Commerce **Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce** Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce Greater New Britain Chamber of Commerce Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Central Connecticut Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Fairfield County Home Builders Association of Northwest Connecticut Home Care Association of America, Connecticut Chapter Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut, Inc. Insurance Association of Connecticut International Franchise Association Lumber Dealers Association of Connecticut Madison Chamber of Commerce Manufacturers Alliance of Connecticut, a division of the Employers Association of the NorthEast Mason Contractors Association of

Connecticut

MetroHartford Alliance

Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce

Midstate Chamber of Commerce

Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce Motor Transport Association of Connecticut National Federation of Independent **Business** New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association New England Spring & Metal Stamping Association New Haven Manufacturers Association Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Old Saybook Chamber of Commerce Orange Chamber of Commerce Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce Smaller Manufacturers Association of Connecticut Stamford Chamber of Commerce **Tolland County Chamber of Commerce** Utility Contractors Association of Connecticut Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce Windham Regional Chamber of Commerce